

NO. 107.

Alexandria Gazette

THURSDAY, MAY 3, 1877.

The Village of Lepers.

The following is from the pen of Mr. Augustus Vick, whose arrival home from a tour in Asia Minor has been already noticed :

"I think I have just seen one of the most melancholy sights in the world. I have been to Lovochori, or the village of lepers—a fearful and terrible place. The village is composed of a few miserable huts placed at the brow of a breezy mountain. As we drew near to it, I could hardly persuade myself that it was the intended object of our morning walk. I heard fearful accounts of the bodily and mental infirmities of the lepers, and I was now to witness them in their own persons.

Three fine, strong men, however, who were the first persons we met, seemed to have little unenviable about them, until, looking closer at them, we perceived that they had no eyebrows. The few straggling hairs on their heads had a limp, strange look, as if they were dead. The features of the men also had a singular indistinctness of outline. The right hand of one was contracted and the first joint of a fore finger destroyed. We asked how his hand had been so maimed. He answered cheerfully that it had been accidentally burnt away one day while he was sleeping too near the fire; a striking lesson enough on the uses of pain, showing how God chastises even in mercy. The lepers are almost devoid of any sense of bodily suffering, and the result was before us.

The next person we met was a fine, upright young man of nineteen. He had, as yet, lost only his eyebrows, but the village doctor of Plumari, who accompanied me, said casually that the very worst cases of leprosy began merely in this way. The young man had already been five years cut off from the world, and in all human probabilities he would never be suffered to return to it. Then came a girl with a huge swelled ankle, one of the most distressing forms of elephantiasis so common in Algiers and the Barbary States. She had nothing else, apparently, the matter with her, but the taint of leprosy was known to be in her constitution. She also had been lost to the world five years—in the first budding of womanhood, in the pride and spring time of life. It was like a thorn at one's heart to see her and know how homelessly she was smitten.

Going further into the village the doctor and I stopped thoughtlessly on in spite of the shuddering remembrance of our companions. We soon came upon a fearful group, talking in the sunshine. They were nearly unintelligible from the imperfection in their organs of speech, which belongs to the worst forms of the malady in its advanced state. The group before us was a ghastly sight. The poor creatures who composed it looked each like an obscene bundle of rags, and some were blind and some were deaf and dumb, and others were stricken with impotence of limb. But the most fearful form of the disease is that of the lion face. The palate gives way, the bridge of the nose is consumed inwardly, the lips stretch out and swell and the livid cheeks hang down in flaps. God have mercy on those he has afflicted thus! And let us bow down in reverent awe to the inscrutable wisdom of the Most High, doubting nothing, hoping all.

The lepers are said to be remarkable for their meriment and high spirits. Their love of pleasure degenerates into licentiousness. They seem to be mercifully endowed with an obtuseness of intellect which prevents the sense of their fearful isolation from pressing on them too heavily. Yet they are quite sane. The disease is supposed to be hereditary; sometimes otherwise. There is no escape for those born leprosy; yet the children of leprosy people are sometimes born healthy. When this is the case they are immediately separated from their parents, and are subjected to such treatment as experience seems to warrant. Science and medical research have done nothing for leprosy. They have slept at their post, and they have forgotten their mission, and been deaf to the

A fish diet, the long fasts of the Greek Church, squalid and long continued poverty; too much oil or salt in the food, and living in damp places, are alleged to be some of the primitive causes of leprosy. A licentious life is undoubtedly another; but its effects are generally visible in this way only in the second generation. As I have said, however, science is dumb, or only speaks in hesitating whispers on this momentous question. I hope to see an attempt at the subject.

The lepers do not want for anything. The charity of friends and relatives provides amply for these poor aliens from the great family of mankind, and when the community is joined by any new member, be he rich or needy (for the terrible mandate of exile strikes both classes unsparingly,) the castaway need never again know toil or eat of the bread which is won by the sweat of the brow.

Among the lepers lives a brave priest, a man whose head a king might be honored to clasp. Humble and self-denying, the living martyr has taken up his dreadful post, never again to leave it: till he hears the approving call of angels "for the good and faithful servant." In outward loneliness and poverty, in desolation, such as the healthy man grows sick to fancy, the Christian here lives his life away. But there must be surely God's spirit ever with him, and he must see visions and dream dreams to which the glory of this world is as nothing. Surely too, he is one of "the last who shall be first."—*Pittsburg Dispatch.*

ENCOURAGE HOME ENTERPRISE!
ALEXANDRIA BROOM FACTORY,
Peabody School Building,
CORNER KING AND ALFRED STREETS,
ALEXANDRIA, VA.

Having bought the outfit of Mr. Wesley Avery for the manufacture of Brooms, we can now offer to the trade a line of Brooms in every size as well made, of good stock, style and finish, and at prices as low as they can be bought of any manufacturer in the country. Motto—"Quick sales and small profits." Call and see for yourselves.

POTATOES! — **POTATOES!**
A full supply of POTATOES received to-day
and for sale low at wholesale prices.
CORN MEAL and FEED of all kinds con-
stantly on hand. HUNT & ROBERTS,
Cameron Mills.
Office, No. 8 south Union street, Alexandria,
Virginia. ap 16-2w

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC.
H. JACOBS
Desires to inform the public that he has again taken possession of his old stand, next door to the Gazette office, on Prince street, and will be happy to see all of his former patrons and anybody else who wants a pleasant and artistic SHAVE or HAIR CUT. jan 30-1f

1500 SACKS LIV. G. A. SALT.
500 SACKS " FINE SALT
All in prime order, full and
bright sacks, and for sale at lowest market
prices. [ap 11] P. B. HOOE
